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China

Church Committee

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AMERICAN CHURCHES & CHINA RELIEF

RECORD & PROSPECT

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Fifty million refugees have fled from their homes in China to escape the invading armies or the floods which have come as the aftermath of war.

An Achievement Worth Recording

RELIEF WORK in China, conducted by Christian missionaries of all denominations and financed by the Church Committee for China Relief, has been developed in such a statesmanlike way, and has been carried on with such intelligence and devotion, that it is worthy of being recorded for the encouragement of those whose gifts have made the work possible. The following pages will give the salient points of this remarkable achievement.

How the Church Committee Was Constituted

The Church Committee for China Relief was constituted in July 1938 by the following bodies:

The Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America
The Foreign Missions Conference of North America
China Famine Relief, U. S. A., Inc.

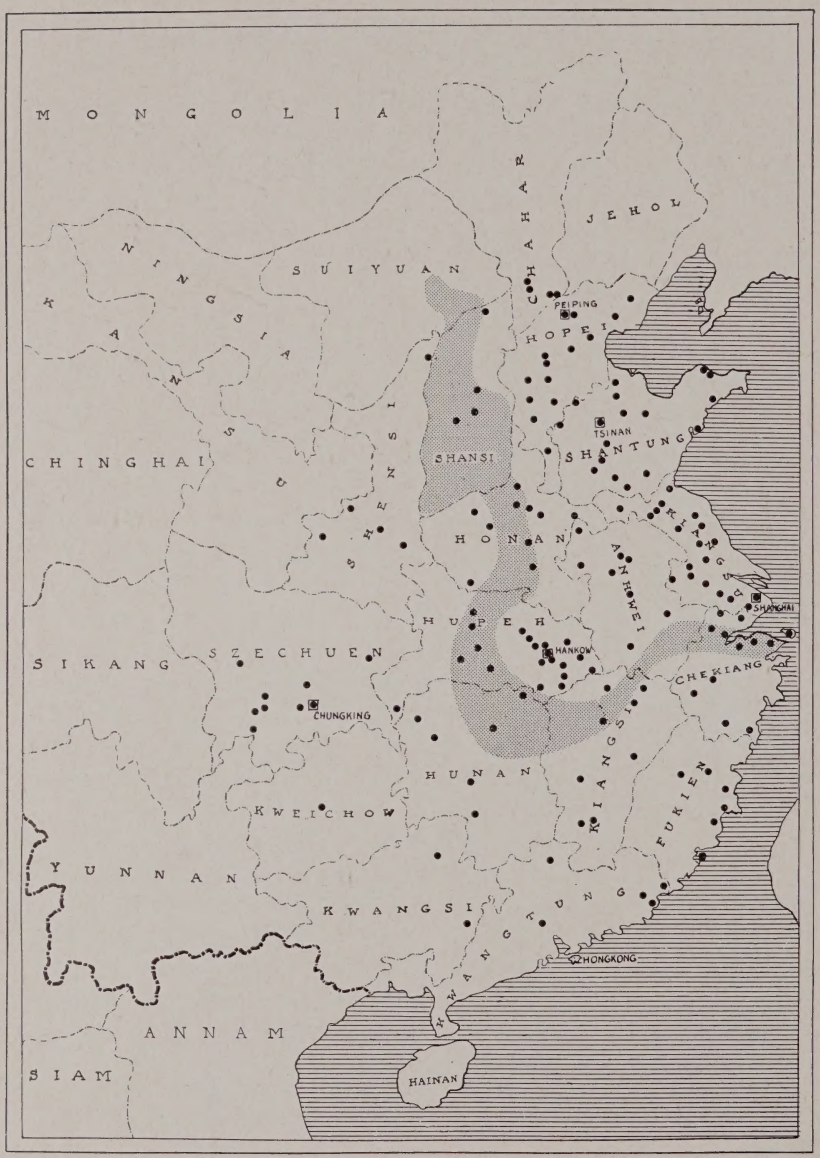
It thus became the official agency of the denominations in the Federal Council of Churches, and of the scores of mission boards and allied organizations in the Foreign Missions Conference, as well as of China Famine Relief, which had been active in China since 1928 and thus brought to the Church Committee a great deal of practical experience.

Supplementing Previous Efforts

When the Church Committee came into being, the war between Japan and China had already been raging for ten months and various relief organizations had been doing what they could to alleviate distress. Mission stations in the vicinity of the fighting had become havens of refuge to thousands of women and children seeking protection from the dangers that threatened them. Wounded people had received treatment in mission hospitals. Mission workers had assisted in the distribution of grain provided by the American Red Cross. But by this time these shipments of grain had practically ceased, and the missions found themselves surrounded by a great deal of suffering but with few resources for alleviating this distress. So the Church Committee was organized to enable them to continue their works of mercy, and it took over the already existing relief machinery, including the American Advisory Committee in Shanghai and various local and regional relief agencies.

More Than a Million Dollars Sent to China

Up to September 1941, the Church Committee had sent to China $1,025,000. These funds exchanged at the market rate, from time to time, amounted to more than $14,000,000 in Chinese currency, and saved the lives of hundreds of thousands of Chinese.



Location of Principal Mission Relief Centers, cooperating with the Church Committee for China Relief. Shaded area indicates battle zone.

Area of Operations

A glance at the accompanying map, which shows the major centers where missionaries are administering relief, will reveal the vast extent of this enterprise, as well as some of the difficulties involved.

The battle zone now extends in an irregular U-shape from the far North, through Central China to the coast. East of this zone is Penetrated China; West and South of it,—except for certain occupied ports—is Free China.

Relief work under Christian auspices naturally began in the original battle zone along the East coast, for there is where the suffering was most intense. As the fighting spread westward, the area of relief operations was extended till it now covers practically the whole country.

Nevertheless the Church Committee has always felt a special responsibility for relief in the penetrated areas for the simple reason that very few other agencies can carry on effective relief work in these parts. It is obvious that the Chinese government, however solicitous it may be for its suffering citizens, can do very little for them in the invaded regions. But missionaries because they have had the status of neutrals in the conflict between China and Japan, have been allowed to administer relief with very little interference.

The suffering of the people in the penetrated areas is so great that it is the intention of the Church Committee to carry on relief operations there as long as possible. At the same time the Committee is not indifferent to the needs of Free China, as is evidenced by the fact that last year twenty-eight per cent of Church Committee funds were spent in these parts. In Free China there are no invading armies, but there are frequent air raids and there are many refugees.

Advantages of Using Missionary Personnel

There are many definite advantages of using missionary personnel to administer relief:

1. Their salaries are already provided by their mission boards so they can serve without cost to relief funds.
2. Mission buildings, such as schools and hospitals, are available for relief work without cost for rent.
3. Missionaries are already trained for their work; they know the language and they know the people.
4. Missionaries are surrounded by groups of devoted and competent Chinese associates,—doctors, nurses, pastors, deaconesses, teachers and volunteer workers, who are able to carry the brunt of the load of investigation and registration, as well as the labor involved in preparing food, conducting schools for refugee children, giving

medical treatments to the sick and wounded, supervising work projects and so forth.

5. Missions have long had their own facilities for transmitting funds, for keeping accounts and making audits. Consequently, when missionaries are entrusted with relief funds, public confidence in the honest administration of these sums is immediately assured.
6. The instant availability of missionaries for relief work is another important advantage. When some new region is invaded, or when a city is suddenly bombed from the air, the nearest missionaries can be counted on to undertake relief operations without delay.
7. The neutral status of the missionaries, already mentioned, needs to be emphasized as an important factor in the success of their relief work.

Cooperation by Other Americans

Though the actual distribution of relief has been entrusted mainly to missionaries, because they are usually the only neutrals on the spot, nevertheless other Americans have been giving valuable assistance in the larger centers by serving on relief committees.

For example in Shanghai, Major Arthur Bassett, one of the leading business executives of that city, was instrumental in organizing the American Advisory Committee and securing for it a most efficient personnel consisting of men like J. W. Carney, of the Standard Vacuum Oil Company; J. H. Mackay, of the National City Bank; A. E. Schumacher, of the Chase Bank; and O. G. Steen, of the American President Lines, as well as missionary executives, physicians and treasurers located in Shanghai. Major Bassett served as chairman of this committee from its inception until his retirement from China in July 1941, when his place was taken by Bishop W. P. Roberts, of the American Church Mission. This Committee has rendered invaluable service in handling all money sent to China by the Church Committee and allocating it according to need to the various regional and local committees. (For complete list of members see page 1.)

Similarly in Chungking there is a group of Americans giving much of their time and energy to the West China Co-ordinating Committee. The Chairman is Arnold Vaught, of the Friends Service Council; the Secretary is F. T. Durdin, representative of the *New York Times;* and the membership includes W. L. Bond, of the China National Aviation Corporation; Bruce C. Leighton and Edward P. Pawley of the Intercontinental Corporation; F. B. Lynch and Arthur Young, of the Ministry of Finance, and many others. This cooperation is characteristic. Wherever there is an American community, however small, there will be found volunteers ready to offer their services.

Local Committees

In one hundred and fifty cities scattered across the length and breadth of China local relief committees have been organized to cooperate with the American Advisory Committee. These local committees go by various names, usually calling themselves the International Relief Committee of the particular place involved. But whatever the name, the structure is of the same general character.

If a local group wishes to receive recognition and be entrusted with funds, it must include representatives of all missions doing relief work in the area concerned, whether they be Protestant or Catholic, American or European. This gives assurance that there will be no conflicting requests presented to the American Advisory Committee, but that all local rivalries, if they exist, will be ironed out before estimates are presented to Shanghai.

In addition to missionary members of local committees, there are usually Chinese representing various local educational and philanthropic organizations. It is customary, however, to assign the positions of secretary and treasurer to missionaries, especially in the penetrated areas, because they can carry on correspondence and handle funds with much less interference than Chinese would experience.

Regional Committees

The total area of relief operations in China, under grants from the Church Committee, is divided into six regions, each with a Regional Committee, which supervises the work and examines the estimates and accounts of the Local Committees. These Regional Committees are located at Peiping, Tsinan, Hankow, Shanghai, Hongkong and Chungking respectively. They are free to accept and administer funds from other sources, as for example from local Chinese societies, or from the British Fund for the Relief of Distress in China, but great care is exercised, by interlocking committees and other devices, to see that there is no duplication of effort.

Budget of Operations

On page 9 will be found a budget worked out by the American Advisory Committee in Shanghai for the year March 1, 1941 to February 28, 1942. In view of the possibility of larger resources being available, through the United China Relief campaign, it seemed wise to divide the budget into three stages, first the "basic program"; second, the "expanded program" (to be started only if and when the basic program is assured); third, a "reserve fund" which is very desirable in view of the uncertain political situation in the Far East. The total amount of money thus budgeted, does not measure China's need, but only that portion for which the present missionary staff can efficiently administer relief.

Low Cost of Administration

The low cost of relief administration under missionary auspices in China is a marvelous and unparalleled achievement.

In other countries, including the United States, a sizable proportion of the funds available must inevitably be spent for the salaries of relief workers, investigators, comptrollers, accountants and so forth, and for the rental of offices and relief centers. But in China the Church Committee receives, without expense to relief funds, the voluntary cooperation of hundreds of highly trained missionaries, strategically placed in every large center, and already supplied with hospitals and school buildings which are available rent free. As a consequence the vast and complicated work of the American Advisory Committee is carried on with only one employed officer, namely the Relief Supervisor, Dr. R. T. Henry, (succeeding Dr. John Earl Baker), and the part time of one office stenographer.

The expenses of the regional committees are also astonishingly low. For example, the Tsinan office of the Shantung International Relief Committee, handled last year $40,000 (US) of relief funds, in cooperation with sixteen local committees which made the actual disbursement to refugees. All the necessary correspondence and accounting of the Tsinan office was carried on at a total cost of one dollar a month, or twelve dollars for the year! (Three-hundredths of one per cent).

Even where it is necessary to hire supervisors for a local work project, the cost of administration has been kept down to a trifle over one per cent. In many local committees the difference in the exchange rate between Shanghai dollars and local dollars has been enough to pay all costs of administration.

In view of these facts, it is no wonder that Major Arthur Bassett, who was until he recently retired from China, one of the leading business executives in Shanghai, and Chairman of the American Advisory Committee, made the following statement:

> "The relief work has been very effectively done because the people doing it were trained for work of this kind. I do not know of any situation in the world similar to the one in China where we have the use of mission workers, hospitals and churches. The work of relief must be continued."

Chinese Efforts to Help Themselves

While this booklet deals with the work of relief carried on with American money, it should always be borne in mind that the Chinese have done an amazing amount for themselves in spite of the terrific difficulties of the situation. Their strong family system has taught them to help not only their immediate relatives in distress, but also

their more distant kinsmen whenever it is humanly possible to do so. These individual and unheralded efforts have been supplemented by the work of the National Relief Commission, the National Health Administration, the National Red Cross Society, with the cooperation of provincial and county relief and health authorities. Chinese Buddhists have been active in relief work through their Red Swastika Societies, the swastika not being for them a Nazi emblem, but an ancient symbol signifying the compassionate heart of Buddha. Chinese living overseas have been exceedingly generous and have made great sacrifices for their ancestral home, sending millions of dollars for relief work. Nevertheless, the need is so appalling that all these agencies together cannot meet more than a fraction of the distress, and the help given by Americans has been accepted with touching gratitude and appreciation.

AMERICAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ESTIMATE

MARCH 1, 1941 — FEBRUARY 28, 1942
(*All amounts are in U. S. Dollars.*)

Basic Program 1941-1942	*General Relief*	*Child Welfare*	*Medical Relief*	*Totals*
March - May	$ 138,889	$ 6,667	$ 3,333	$ 148,889
June - Aug.	177,778	9,167	5,555	192,500
Sept. - Nov.	213,333	11,111	7,778	232,222
Dec. - Feb.	256,000	13,334	11,111	280,445
Operating Expenses				5,833
Totals	$ 786,000	$40,279	$ 27,777	$ 859,889
Expanded Program	222,222	11,111	278,778	511,111
Totals	$1,008,222	$51,390	$305,555	$1,365,167
Emergency Fund				179,000
				$1,550,000

NOTES

Operating expenses include salary and travel of Relief Supervisor, Dr. R. T. Henry, as well as travel of regional directors, and $1,111 for expenses of Shanghai office.

Emergency Relief

Providing Sanctuary

One of the first and most valuable services rendered by the missions in China during this crisis has been that of sanctuary—providing a safe place where women and children will not be molested by the soldiers. Whenever the tide of battle comes suddenly to a city, without time for the people to evacuate to a distance, hundreds and even thousands of women and children hurry to the mission compounds, asking for shelter behind friendly walls. They bring as much of their own bedding and food as they can carry, and they beg only for temporary shelter till the immediate crisis is over. Missionaries cannot refuse such a plea, though it at once involves them in very difficult administrative problems. When they have filled school and dormitory and chapel with refugees crowding every available inch of space, mat sheds must be built out of doors for the overflow. Order must be established as quickly as possible, or there will be bedlam and confusion. There must be regulations about cooking food. There must be clean water to drink. Sanitary measures must be strictly enforced. Bathing facilities must be stretched to their utmost capacity. More serious still, if the soldiers come and demand, as they frequently do, that the women be brought to them, an unarmed missionary must turn them away either by argument or by insisting that entrance can be gained over the missionary's dead body. This resolute method has always been effective and has won the profound gratitude of the Chinese people.

Refugee Camps and Food Stations

When the battle is over it is frequently discovered that large sections of the city have been destroyed. Many of the people taking refuge in mission compounds find that they have lost their homes. Their intention was to stay only during a temporary emergency, but they are compelled to remain for a longer period because they have no place to go. They may discover also that their shops have been looted and burned, so that they have lost their livelihood. Relief for them means supplying them with food and shelter till they can find some way to shift for themselves. Many of the campuses of Christian colleges, from which the students have migrated westward, have been used to house great numbers of refugees. For example, one college had six thousand destitute people living all winter in its buildings or camped on its grounds.

Sometimes special refugee camps have been laid out, using temporary shelters made of matting or other cheap material, and providing boiled rice once or twice a day. But the general policy of the Church Committee is to get the people back into their homes as soon as possible not only to save expense but for the psychological effect, for as soon as they return to the old familiar surroundings they begin to bestir themselves and find ways to make a living, whereas if they stay long in a refugee camp they are apt to lose initiative and become dependents. Even in work for destitute children it is usually best to have them live at home, or with relatives or friends, coming to the relief center if necessary for one good meal a day, rather than to become inmates of an institution.

Rehabilitation Loans

One of the most satisfactory methods of relief is that of providing small loans to people who are eager to work but have lost so much that they cannot get started again without assistance.

This method has been used to help tradesmen and peddlers lay in a new stock of goods to replace what was destroyed in battle, repaying the loan from the proceeds. But the most spectacular results have come from loans made to farmers, who either because of the fighting between rival armies, or because of floods which came as the aftermath of war, have lost their seed, their farming tools and perhaps their livestock. But they still have their land, and a small loan to help them buy seed and tools will enable them to plant a crop and make them self-supporting again.

It is a tribute to the sterling character of the Chinese people that these loans have been repaid in such a high percentage of cases. On page 32 will be found a history of seven loans made at Hwaiyuan in Anhwei. One of these loans had not yet matured when the report was made, but the other six loans had been returned ninety-eight per cent, usually within four months time. These loans benefited 2,293 families or not less than twelve thousand people, involving an initial outlay of only about $2,500 in American money, or a trifle over one dollar per family. As the money was repaid, it became available for further loans. It is hard to imagine how money could pay larger dividends in saving lives and putting worthy people back on a basis of self support.

Some of the younger members of our Refugee Children's Home in Kiukiang.

Smiles return to the faces of children when they see rice again at the Mission Relief Station, Hofei, Honan Province.

Child Welfare Work

THE CHURCH COMMITTEE for China Relief is today one of the foremost American agencies serving destitute and refugee children both in Free China and in the penetrated areas. Children are, of course, included in emergency relief, but there are many forms of relief especially for children. The Church Committee has consistently followed a policy of cooperating with the recognized child welfare agencies, as well as with mission schools and orphanages. The principal organizations with which it has worked are:

A Leading Agency in Child Relief

The National Child Welfare Association of China
Wartime Children's Protective Association
(Better known as Madame Chiang's War Orphanages)
The National Christian Council's Child Welfare Project

National Child Welfare Association of China

This Association was organized at Shanghai in 1928, with Dr. H. H. Kung as president, to care for children rescued from the Yangtze River floods. When this emergency was over the Association branched out into the field of general child welfare work. When the war broke out in 1937, the Association established relief camps and homes, first in Shanghai and then in other cities. According to the latest statistics at hand, the Association now has 18 camps and homes in all; four of these are in Shanghai, three in the Honan province, seven in Shensi province, and four in Szechwan province. The total number of children in these camps and homes is 6,447. To two of the camps in Honan, namely Hsuchang and Yuhsien, the Church Committee has given subsidies through the West China Coordinating Committee.

Wartime Children's Protective Association

This organization came into being at Hankow in May 1938, under the leadership of Madame Chiang Kai-shek, as a project of the Chinese Women's Service Association. It has rescued thousands of refugee children, gathering them first in concentration stations along the principal highways, and then placing them in orphanages and nurseries. The Association has now extended its work to eleven provinces and conducts 46 nursery schools for 7,104 children. To this work the Church Committee has given subsidies of over $250,000 Chinese currency.

National Christian Council Child Welfare Project

It was toward the end of 1938 that Dr. H. H. Kung, in his capacity as president of the National Child Welfare Association wrote to the National Christian Council of China, asking it to undertake work for destitute children in the occupied area. As negotiations proceeded it was announced early in 1939, that $50,000 in Chinese currency would be available for a three months' experiment if the National Christian Council would sponsor this kind of an enterprise. (The National Christian Council of China is a constituent member of the International Missionary Council, and performs functions similar to those of the Federal Council of Churches in the United States).

Before embarking on this undertaking the National Christian Council sent inquiries to about forty mission stations asking whether refuges for children were needed in those localities, and if so, whether the missions would be willing to assume responsibility for them. As the missions at that time supposed that the project involved permanent orphanages, they felt hesitant about starting institutions of this nature unless they were assured of permanent income. This assurance the National Christian Council was not in a position to give.

At this juncture a new light was cast on the problem by one of the Chinese pastors in Shaohing, Chekiang, who started a project which he called "One Hundred Hungry Children." He did not attempt to house these children, but brought them each day to the relief center for one good meal followed by a period of instruction.

This scheme worked so well that it was made a model for other places and the National Christian Council offered financial assistance to any mission opening such a center. About thirty such projects are now in operation in seventeen cities with 5,500 children being cared for. To these projects the Church Committee contributed $5,487 (US) last year, and would like to increase these subsidies very substantially because the need is extremely urgent and the project could be expanded indefinitely if funds were available.

In addition to working through the child welfare organizations named above, the Church Committee directly subsidizes many projects conducted by missionaries on behalf of destitute and refugee children. These projects follow in the main the patterns described above so that they do not need further comment here.

Work Relief

Constructive Relief is the Goal

In the years immediately preceding the outbreak of the present war in the Far East, Dr. John Earl Baker, relief expert for the China International Famine Relief Commission, had worked out a four-fold policy by which he hoped to "remove China from the famine map of the world," within his own lifetime. The four parts of this policy were the following:

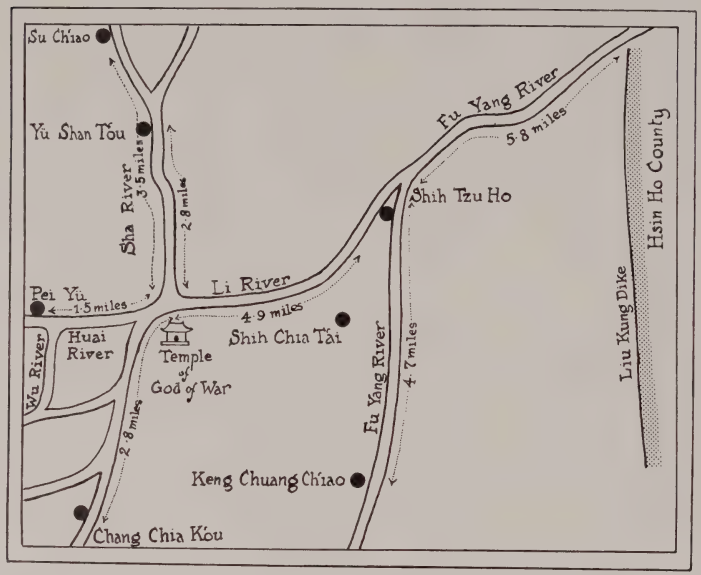
1. Irrigation, to make agriculture independent of droughts
2. Flood control, to prevent destructive inundations
3. Improved transportation, to move grain to famine areas more quickly
4. Better credit organization, to free farmers from usurious rates of interest.

Progress had been made along all these lines, and a good share of the money for these constructive measures came from America through China Famine Relief U. S. A., which is one of the constituting bodies of the Church Committee for China Relief. Several well-conceived irrigation projects were carried out which saved large numbers of people from the threat of drought. Dikes were constructed in many places to control floods. Thousands of miles of highway were built, partly to give work to famine sufferers and partly to improve the means of transportation. Cooperative credit societies were started and had a wide vogue, because they protected the farmer from usurers.

A great deal of this constructive work has been undone by the present war, but relief societies have not lost sight of the ultimate goal. Wherever possible work relief has been given, rather than food or doles of money, but chances for constructive work projects have not been as plentiful as in normal times. The guerrillas are naturally busy tearing up roads and destroying dikes in order to delay the invaders, so it is out of the question to build highways or dikes in the areas where guerrillas are active. Nevertheless, there are some areas where it has been possible to repair dikes without interference from the armies and thus to drain flooded farm lands. Crops can then be grown and the destitute farmers become self-supporting once again. Sometimes this kind of relief has been combined with revolving loans in a very efficient way.

A Typical Dike Repair Project

A dike repairing project in the province of Hopei will give a good idea of the kind of work relief sponsored by the Church Committee. The



Map of Dike Project

project was concerned with repairing the banks of five rivers, as shown in the accompanying map. Owing to flood conditions in three succesive years, the banks were in very bad shape, and had 131 breaks, many of which were wide and deep. These breaks were repaired and thirty miles of river banks were built up to a height of three or four feet, (in some cases eight or nine feet), to serve as dikes to prevent a recurrence of the floods. The result is that the banks now present the appearance of a smooth raised road, nine feet wide on top and thirty feet wide at the base, making a very convenient highway.

As a result of this work some thirty-five villages were directly benefited, with several hundred other villages helped indirectly. The cash payments to the workmen brought considerable relief at a time of great scarcity. Later the area recovered from the floods was sown to *kaoliang* or Kaffir corn, and produced a bumper crop.

The cost of this project was $50,000 Chinese currency, of which only $526 was spent for overseers, accountants and expenses of administration—just over one per cent of the total expenditure. In United States currency the cost was about $3,000. In reporting this achievement Rev. W. R. Rowlands adds: "It need hardly be said that

the people are grateful for the grants which enabled them to do this necessary reconstruction and they deeply appreciate the generosity of the Relief Committee in supplying the funds."

Rebuilding a City Wall

In one famous instance refugee workmen rebuilt a city wall, and thus saved the city from inundation. A grant of $20,000 (Chinese currency) was used on this project and gave employment to various classes of workmen,—men who cut stone out of the quarries; boatmen who transported the stone and other building materials; masons who rebuilt the wall; shop-keepers who profited by the money thus put into circulation. If the wall had not been repaired the city would have been flooded and the people would have had to evacuate. It is an interesting fact that when the missionary who started this project turned in the accounts, there was a balance of one cent!

Work Projects for Women

There are many mission stations where destitute women have been given a chance to earn part or all of their expenses by various kinds of work projects. Sometimes the sewing skill they already possess has been used in making clothes and bedding, which are greatly needed at this time. Hundreds of women and girls have taken up spinning and weaving using the old fashioned hand methods, because the factories with modern machinery have been largely destroyed. In some places where there have been destructive floods, with consequent plagues of mosquitos and epidemics of malaria, women have been employed making mosquito nets. Along the coast, women have been taught how to make fish nets to meet the local demand. In other places they have manufactured sandals.

Industrial Cooperatives

Missionaries have had a very important part in stimulating the organization of industrial cooperatives, which are helping to solve some of the problems created by the destruction of factories along the coast. The Church Committee has felt that its funds were too limited to warrant using them as capital for the purchase and installation of machinery in these cooperatives, but it has assisted the cooperative movement in some localities by supplying food for refugee apprentices while they were learning their new crafts. This plan has worked out very well in practice. For the Church Committee it has meant that the refugees thus helped did not become permanent dependents but quickly reached the stage of self support. For the cooperatives it has meant that they could devote their funds to setting up their factories, without having to support their workers during the unproductive period of instruction.

Location of Mission Hospitals in China. Some of the large cities have two or more mission hospitals. There are 274 in all, constituting 75% of all civilian hospitals. (Specially prepared for the Church Committee for China Relief.)

Medical Relief

FROM THE VERY BEGINNING of the war the medical side of the service rendered by missionaries to the Chinese people has been of paramount importance. There is an appalling shortage of doctors and nurses in China as well as of hospital facilities. In the first three months of the war, wounded soldiers and civilians numbered 40,000 but there were only 3,000 hospital beds available in the region where hostilities were going on. Since that time the Chinese government has rapidly expanded its hospitals for soldiers, but has been able to do little to increase facilities for civilians, who have suffered immeasurably from air raids as well as from epidemics which have come with war conditions. The burden of caring for the civilian population has fallen largely on the 274 mission hospitals, which constitute seventy-five per cent of the 367 hospitals serving a civilian population of 440,000,000 —one-fourth of the human race. These hospitals are utterly inadequate to care for the civilian population even in peace times, because they have only 38,000 beds altogether which means one bed for 12,000 people. (In the United States there are 100 hospital beds for every 12,000 people.) Since the war began, the hospitals in China have been greatly overtaxed, with patients filling not only the beds but often lying on the floor in every ward and passage-way.

Appalling Need for Medical Service

Not only are the hospitals crowded, but there are all kinds of emergency cases due to the war. A missionary physician writing about his work gives a vivid picture of the conditions he has to meet. He speaks of the war cases—patients wounded by bombs, gun-shots or bayonets; women in premature labor induced by outrages they have suffered from the military; torture cases—farmer folk burned, stabbed or beaten by bandits; epidemic cases—due to cholera, smallpox, typhoid, diphtheria, meningitis and malaria; patients infected with parasites which are so widespread in soil and water as to be unconquerable until a strong government can take mass action.

Emergency Conditions

In a great many cases the mission hospitals could not have met these emergencies had not the Church Committee helped to pay the cost of medical aid to patients made destitute by the war. The prevailing rates for such payments have been $1.50 (Chinese currency) for each charity patient per day in the hospital; twenty-five cents

Aid from the Church Committee

A civilian health clinic where refugees are being inoculated against a dangerous epidemic.

(Chinese currency) for each free treatment in a clinic. These payments are extremely meagre as will be immediately apparent when it is realized that $1.50 (Chinese currency) is worth only about eight cents in American money, and yet these subsidies have been of real help to the hospitals and when applied to thousands of patients they have amounted to large sums in the aggregate. Owing to the rapid increase in the cost of living these rates are being augmented to $3.50 (Chinese currency) per day for hospitalization and to seventy-five cents (Chinese currency) for a clinic treatment, but these payments are still very inadequate.

The Quinine Fund

Another way in which the American Advisory Committee has helped the hospitals is by maintaining a quinine fund. Malaria has been a scourge of epidemic proportions in many parts of China, and there has been an enormous demand for quinine. But it has been very difficult for the hospitals to secure sufficient supplies of this precious drug, because their income from fees, being in depreciated Chinese currency, does not go far in buying drugs from abroad. The American Advisory Committee therefore has set aside $5,000 (US) as a revolving

fund to be used, with an equal amount from the British Fund, to buy quinine in large lots from Java, thus securing a very favorable price of fifty-three cents an ounce.

The quinine thus purchased has been allotted to various mission hospitals in proportion to their needs. Those hospitals able to pay for the medicine have been glad to do so, getting the advantage of a wholesale price. Their payments have been put back into the revolving fund. Other hospitals have been so burdened with work for people made destitute by the war, that they cannot pay for the quinine, in which case it is donated by the Church Committee.

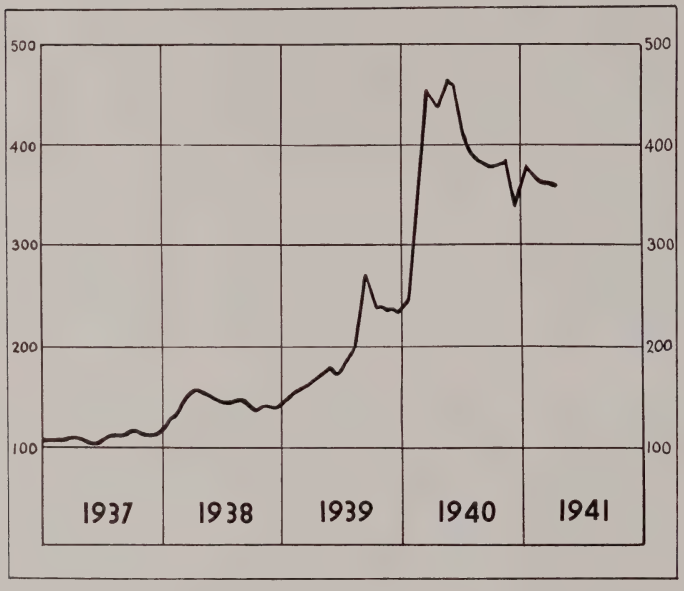
Supplying Medicines to Free China

The Church Committee has also subsidized the very important work carried on by the "International Red Cross Committee for Central China," which has been distributing drugs and medical supplies to ninety-six civilian hospitals in Free China as well as to dispensaries, refugee camps and orphanages. This work has centered in Kweiyang, (though it started in Hankow) and has served fourteen provinces or parts of provinces.

At Kweiyang it has been the policy to keep on hand a sufficient supply of drugs, vaccines and sera to meet emergency needs, as well as to maintain an even and regular distribution to the hospitals. Here-

Moving day in a work relief project for women, at Shaohing

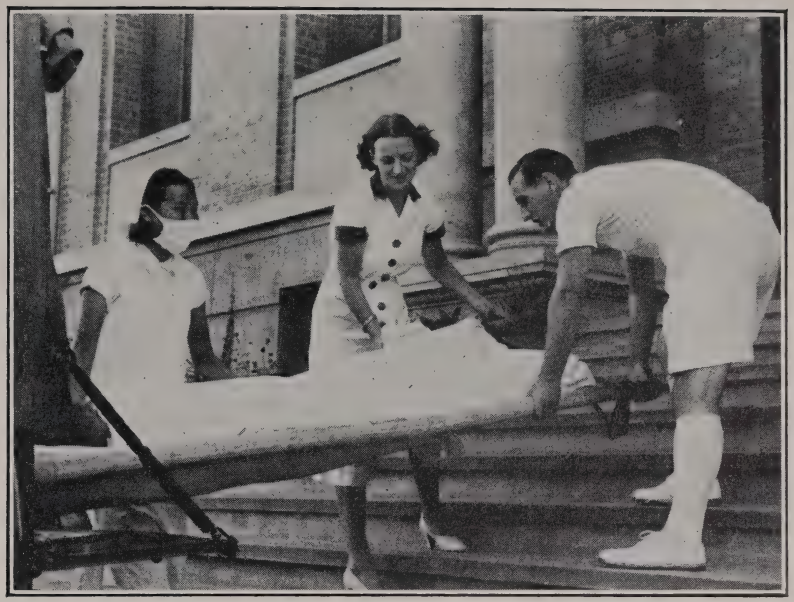
after the American Red Cross will provide the medicines and supplies needed by these hospitals, but the International Red Cross Committee will continue to help meet the most difficult problem of West China, which is transportation. After the supplies have been brought to the terminus of the Burma Road, there still remains the problem of distribution to the individual hospitals. There are very few railroads in West China, and the small fleet of trucks belonging to the International Red Cross Committee has been, and will continue to be of incalculable value in delivering supplies to the hospitals, most of which have no transportation system of their own.



Cost of Living in Peiping Based on Chinese Dollar Prices. 1936=100
(*Drawn for Church Committee from data compiled by Yenching University*)

The Rising Cost of Living

Though mission hospitals are demonstrating their value as never before, it is becoming exceedingly difficult to keep them open, because of many unfavorable elements in the present emergency. First and foremost is the fact that the cost of living has been rapidly rising in China, as the accompanying graph makes abundantly clear. Yet patients must be fed, even if rice has increased in price a thousand per cent as it has in some parts of the country. Coal must be purchased even if it costs $250 per ton in Chinese currency, for the hospital wards must be heated in the winter. Chinese doctors and nurses must be paid higher wages or they cannot live.



Good friends of China—Dr. Hawes and his wife, both of the League of Nations medical mission, are among the foreign experts who have helped to save China from mass epidemics.

Local Income Has Fallen Off Sharply

In the past, most mission hospitals have obtained a large part of their running expenses from fees from patients able to pay for hospitalization. This source of income has decreased at a rapid rate, for many persons formerly well-to-do have lost everything and are now utterly impoverished, so that if they need hospitalization, they are not only unable to pay anything but actually become charity cases. Other people of wealth have moved away in the mass migration, leaving the poor people still poorer, and still more subject to disease as they suffer from undernourishment. Even on the rare occasion when a patient comes who is able to pay the former scale of rates for a private room, the money being in Chinese currency, will not go far in buying drugs and supplies from abroad.

Increasing Difficulty of Purchasing Drugs and Supplies

It has been extremely hard to purchase drugs and supplies, for three reasons.

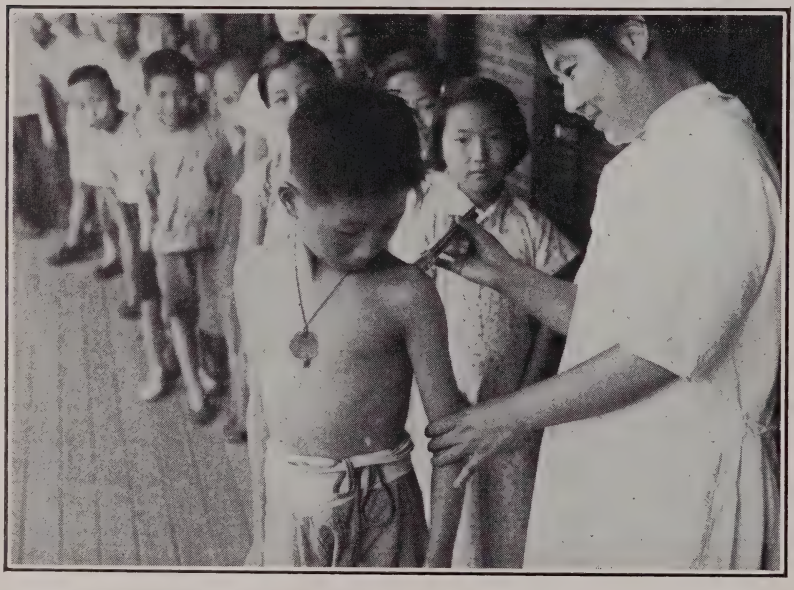
1. Europe, which has always been a principal source of supply for drugs and medicines used in China, needs these at home, because of the war.
2. The depreciation of Chinese currency makes it extremely hard to get enough foreign exchange to buy even such drugs and supplies as are on the market.

3. Transportation is difficult, expensive and slow. In some cases it costs more to move the supplies from Shanghai to a local hospital than the supplies cost in the first instance.

It is hoped that the situation in regard to medicines will be considerably relieved in the near future by the American Red Cross, which is planning to donate large quantities of drugs and medical supplies. But at present transportation problems are so difficult that supplies are piling up in Burma waiting for trucks to move them to China.

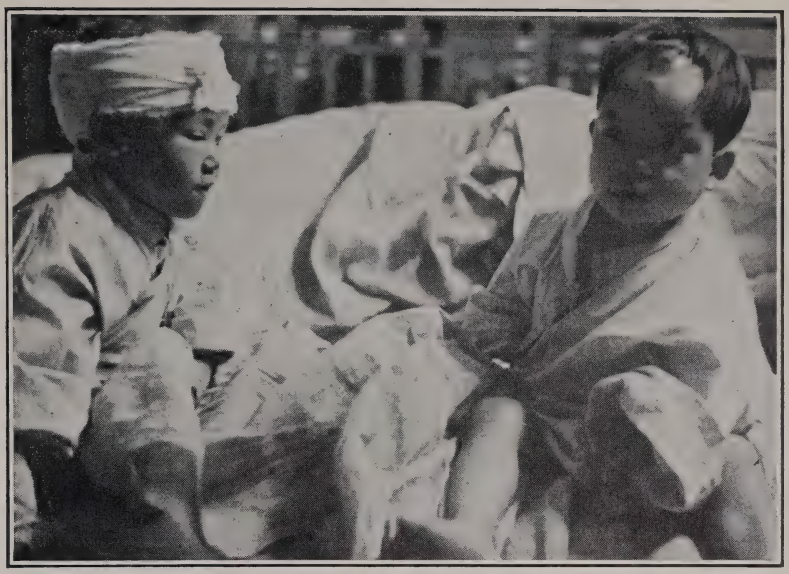
It Is Very Hard to Secure and Hold Doctors and Nurses

According to statistics issued in 1937 by the Council on Medical Missions of the Chinese Medical Association, there were 858 physicians on the staffs of mission hospitals in 1937. Of these 561 were Chinese and 297 were westerners. There were also 1,596 nurses, of whom 1,340 were Chinese and 256



Shanghai Goodwill School Clinic. Note the boy's charm against disease.

were westerners. There were also 3,769 pupil nurses in mission training schools. This staff is barely sufficient to operate 274 hospitals with 27,000 beds. But because of the enormous number of casualties due to the war, the army is constantly calling for more doctors and nurses to staff the field and base hospitals, and many Chinese connected with civilian hospitals naturally feel that their patriotic duty is to serve in the difficult and dangerous posts at the front. This means that the



Two little convalescents.

staffs of civilian hospitals are being constantly depleted, and this process is hastened by the rising cost of living unless increases in pay keep step with the price of food.

Air Raids Have Destroyed Many Hospitals

The cost of operation has been greatly increased for many hospitals because their buildings have been destroyed, in whole or in part, by air raids and other military incidents. This means that they are burdened with the cost of rebuilding at the very time when other expenses are already crushing. These losses have been very considerable. The damage to Protestant mission hospitals is described in the *China Christian Year Book, 1938-1939,* pages 335-337 and summarized as follows:

> "Bombed 13, destroyed 10; burnt 3; damaged 7, occupied 8; looted 3; closed 12; interfered with 6. This shows that 23 per cent of the Christian medical work in China has been affected by the war, while the loss to plant and equipment is estimated at over $1,500,000 National currency."

The damage to Catholic mission property is given in detail in the *Chinese Year Book, 1940-1941,* pages 427-430. From these lists it appears that four Catholic hospitals have been bombed, one destroyed and one damaged.

The figures given above, both for Protestant and Catholic hospitals apply only to losses prior to December 1939. Since that time at least four other hospitals have been hit by bombs, causing very severe damage.

Closing Mission Hospitals Would Be a Great Disaster

In view of the appalling situation in China from the health standpoint, it would be an indescribable disaster if the mission hospitals should be forced to close because of insufficient income. As already pointed out, they constitute three-fourths of the hospitals available for civilians in China today. Should they have to shut their doors, it would mean that the vast civilian population of China,—one-fourth of the human race,—would have left only one hospital bed for every 40,000 inhabitants, at a time of wide-spread agony and suffering.

Proposed Fund For Mission Hospitals

In view of the critical situation described above, the Church Committee is seeking to raise a fund to stabilize the mission hospitals and help them to continue and improve their indispensable work for the Chinese civilian population. The Church Committee is convinced that a minimum of $400,000 (US) is required. As there are 274 mission hospitals, this would mean less than $1,500 per hospital on the average, though it is not assumed that every hospital would be given the same amount of help. The details would be left to the American Advisory Committee to work out, with the assistance of their new Relief Supervisor, Dr. R. T. Henry, and the cooperation of the regional and local committees.

How the Fund Would Be Spent

A primary purpose of the fund would be to help the hospitals to retain their staffs of Chinese doctors and nurses, by giving them greater assistance in the form of rice allowances or other bonuses to meet the rising cost of living, which is not a temporary phenomenon but something which is likely to continue over a considerable period.

The fund would be available also to purchase food for charity patients, to buy coal in winter, and to meet various forms of miscellaneous expenses.

While the subsidies paid would not be large they would lift a great burden of care from the doctors in charge of these hospitals, enabling them to give undivided attention to their medical work, and to extend the magnificent service which they are now rendering to the civilian population of China in these critical days. This is a cause which should have a strong appeal to the American people, because it is such a practical way of helping China.

Political Framework in Which Relief Work is Carried on

ONE OF THE CARDINAL principles of the Church Committee is that its work is based on humanitarian and not on political motives. It has been very careful in its solicitation of funds to appeal to the churches to give assistance to China because it is their duty as Christians to relieve distress wherever found. The missionaries through whom relief is distributed in China are neutrals, and this status has helped immensely in the carrying on of the work.

The Church Committee is Non-Political

It is inevitable, however, that political conditions should affect the work even of a non-political relief agency. Hence an attempt will be made here frankly to face the issues.

How Is the Work Affected by the Evacuation of Missionaries?

The State Department having advised American citizens to leave China, the question naturally arises as to how far this advice has been followed, and what the effect has been, or is likely to be, on the work of the Church Committee.

As a matter of fact most of the missions have sent away only mothers with small children, or persons in poor health, or those whose furloughs are about due, or those who have reached the age of retirement. These evacuations have not as yet seriously affected relief operations. Those acquainted with relief practice know that in most mission stations only one or two missionaries are giving *full time* to relief work. The Chinese staff, together with volunteer Chinese workers, carries the chief part of the load, with missionaries keeping accounts and acting as connecting links between the local and regional committees. The work could still go on even if there should be a drastic curtailing of missionary personnel.

What Would Happen If the Situation Should Deteriorate?

There is a possibility that the situation may deteriorate through Japan's declaring war on Great Britain or on America or on both. What would then happen to the relief work of the Church Committee?

The answer to this is two-fold. First, it may be pointed out that the Church Committee is not entirely dependent on British and American missionaries for the distribution of its funds. There are missionaries of Norwegian, Swedish, Belgian, French or other nationalities who might continue relief work, provided money could be transmitted to them.

The second part of the answer is that the Church Committee through its fine system of regional committees can shift its base of operations at a moment's notice. At present its work is carried on chiefly through Shanghai and Peiping. But if necessary it could change to Chungking and Hongkong, notifying its committees in these places by cable or radio of the shift in plans.

Is Relief Work in the Penetrated Areas Politically Desirable?

There are many people sympathetic with China who wonder whether relief work in the penetrated areas may not be politically undesirable because of possible advantages to the invaders. The answer made by Dr. M. Searle Bates of Nanking to questions of this sort is forthright and convincing because it shows that high officials in the Chinese government have not only expressed their approval of this work, but personally contributed money for its continuance. Dr. Bates said:

> "High officers of the National Government, including the Generalissimo, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Education, the National Agricultural Research Bureau, and the Ambassador to the United States, have continually approved and contributed to relief work and other welfare enterprises carried on in the penetrated areas by missionaries and churches. They consider the great needs of the 'temporarily separated people, whom we are unable to help but whom you can serve in their distress'; the support of character and morale by independent centers of public service not part of the Japanese and puppet system; the physical and spiritual strengthening of their own brethren, in confidence of future reunion in freedom."

What of the Future?

The whole problem of the future of relief work in China has been thoroughly studied by a group called the Committee on Disbursements of United China Relief. This Committee, under the able leadership of Mr. Edward C. Carter of the Institute of Pacific Relations, is urging the eight organizations which have been cooperating in United China Relief, to plan to continue their relief work for the duration of the war in China, and for at least a year after it is over, because the need for rehabilitation will be so staggering that the Chinese cannot shoulder the load alone.

This is a wise suggestion and will appeal to the good sense of the American churches. Having already stood by their missionaries during four terrible years of war, they will certainly not abandon them now, nor cut off the funds needed to alleviate at least part of the distress with which they are surrounded. And when peace comes, the churches having won the deep confidence of the people during the war years, will not disappoint them when it comes to rehabilitation.

Dr. Robert T. Henry (left) just before he returned to China to be Relief Supervisor, greeting Dr. Charles A. Stanley, chairman of the Shantung International Relief Committee, who is here for a brief furlough. In center is Dr. B. A. Garside, executive director of United China Relief.

Biographical Note on Dr. Robert T. Henry

Dr. Robert T. Henry was chosen by the American Advisory Committee to be Relief Supervisor in place of Dr. John Earl Baker, who was first released to the American Red Cross in China, and then to the Chinese Government to supervise traffic on the Burma Road. Dr. Henry has been a missionary of the Methodist Church, stationed in Soochow. He was on furlough in the United States when he was elected. His Mission Board having released him for one year, he returned to China in September to take up this important work.

Dr. Henry's work will involve a good deal of traveling, as the relief work of the Church Committee is carried on in more than 150 cities in fifteen provinces. He will inspect the work already being done, and investigate the need for new efforts as new emergencies arise.

Dr. Henry is well equipped for this work. He has already given twenty years of fruitful service to China and has had a variety of experiences, including several months of 1937 spent in assisting the well known relief expert, Dr. John Earl Baker, in organizing camps for the 250,000 refugees who streamed into Shanghai. Later Dr. Henry returned to his regular station at Soochow and organized relief work in that city, distributing the very welcome American cracked wheat, fighting epidemics of malaria and tuberculosis and starting centers for destitute children where they were not only fed but educated.

A Typical Local Relief Committee

MEMBERSHIP OF YUANLING INTERNATIONAL
RELIEF COMMITTEE, HUNAN

Chairman—Mr. C. W. Hwang, West Hunan Salt Administration
Sec'y.—Rev. S. W. Whitener, American Reformed Church Mission

Mission Representatives

American Catholic Mission	Fr. Paul Ubinger Fr. Marcellus White
American Reformed Church Mission	Principal Samuel Y. Giang Rev. S. W. Whitener
American Evangelical Mission	Miss Justine Granner Rev. G. W. Swen
Young Men's Christian Ass'n.	Mr. I. F. Djang
Young Women's Christian Ass'n.	Miss Hwang

Relief Organizations

District Relief Commission of National Government	Mr. Yao (or his appointee)
Provincial Relief Work	Mr. Gwoh
County Relief Work	Mr. Tien
International Red Cross Committee	Mr. B. B. Rogers

Health Organizations

National Health Administration	Dr. P. S. Djang
Local Isolation Hospital	Dr. Lu

Government Representatives

West Hunan Salt Administration	Mr. C. W. Hwang
Yuanling District Magistrate	Mr. Wang (or his appointee)
Yuanling Party Bureau	Mr. Wu

Schools

Yali (Yale) Middle School	Principal Lao
Fusiang Middle School	Principal Tsiang

Banks

Shanghai & Commercial Sav. Bank	The Manager

TYPICAL BUDGET OF A LOCAL RELIEF COMMITTEE

CHANGSHA INTERNATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FROM JANUARY 1, 1939 TO AUGUST 31, 1940

INCOME

Balance on hand January 1, 1939			$118,812.26	
Received since January 1, 1939				
Church Committee for China Relief	80%	$115,000.00		
Changsha Salt Gabelle	9%	13,482.00		
Evangelical Mission	3%	5,000.00		
Other sources	8%	11,626.82	145,108.82	
			$263,921.08	

EXPENDITURE

Grants to Changsha Area			
Medical Service			
Catholic Mission Hospital	$ 1,800.00		
Hudson Taylor Memorial Hospital	1,900.00		
Vaccination Teams, Red Cross Units	1,712.47		
Hunan Yale Hospital	300.00		
Isolation Hospital	1,000.00		
Grant to sick in relief camps	300.00		
Lin-Hsiang Red Cross Unit	1,037.00		
Changsha Health Station	200.00		
YMCA—First aid equipments	300.00	8,549.47	5.2%
Social Service			
Night shelters	4,013.66		
Travel for refugees	598.14		
Bath houses	575.29		
Care of orphans and bean milk	625.00		
Tea stations	180.00		
Nan Li Shih relief	367.40		
Refugee camps	8,289.58		
China Red Swastika Relief (Buddhist)	2,482.00		
Destitute Women's Home	1,831.70		
Rice gruel kitchens, Changsha	60,552.61		
Relief schools	15,796.76		
Loans granted $15,000.00			
Loans repaid 9,779.87	5,220.13	100,532.27	61.0%
Occupational Relief			
Soap factory	483.50		
Shoes and Sandals	277.14		
Changsha Spinning Works	370.00		
Nan Li Shih	148.75		
Ninghsiang Spinning Project	4,537.14		
Clothing Project, Changsha	44,907.81		
Tao-yuen clothing and loan	2,600.00		
Lin Ling	5,000.00		
	58,324.34		
Less loan returned from Yiyang weaving project	4,000.00	54,324.34	33.6%
Administration			
Administrative expenses	447.00	447.00	0.2%
		$163,853.08	100%
Grants to other areas in Hunan		32,770.94	
Balance in hand and in bank		67,297.06	
		$263,921.08	

REHABILITATION LOANS

HISTORY OF SEVEN LOANS AT HWAIYUAN, ANHWEI

No.	*Date*	*Purpose*	*Persons Helped*	*Amount*	*Percent Repaid*
1	March 1939	To help spring famine victims, who have property	178 households	CCy$3,000	100%
2	May 1939	To buy tools for harvest	66 "	1,120	100%
3	Oct. 1939 to Jan. 1940	To buy seed wheat for winter planting	500 "	5,805	99½%
4	Dec. 1939 to March 1940	To help peddlers and tradesmen	356 "	3,000	100%
5	March 1940 to May 1940	To help farmers in emergency	174 "	3,660	95%
6	May 1940 to August 1940	To buy tools and animals for harvest	271 "	6,640	96%
		Total for six loans	1,545 "	CCy$23,225	98%
7	Nov. 1940 to June 1941	To buy seed wheat	748 "	21,720	——*
			*To be returned after June 1941		
		Total for seven loans	2,293 "	CCy$44,945	

CHURCH COMMITTEE FOR CHINA RELIEF

105 East 22nd Street - - - - New York, N. Y.